

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04052 221358Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05

EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01

L-03 H-01 PA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 PC-01 /112 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9348

INFO: RUFHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 6437

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EAID, EFIN, CG

SUBJECT: STATUS OF MOBUTU PLAN

REF: KINSHASA 77244

1. AMBASSADOR MET APRIL 19 WITH BOKANA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENCY AND GOZ OFFICIAL WHO HAS EMERGED AS KEY PLAYER IN DEVELOPING MOBUTU PLAN IN CONSULTATION WITH BELGIANS. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED SOME OF CURRENT THINKING AT WASHINGTON WORKING LEVEL (REFTEL). HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF EARLY AGREEMENT ON IMF STANDBY TO FACILITATE MOVING AHEAD WITH PLAN, AND MENTIONED IDEA THAT IBRD CONSULTATIVE GROUP MIGHT PROVIDE USEFUL MECHANISM WHEN TIME CAME FOR DONORS TO COORDINATE THEIR PARTICIPATION.

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 04052 221358Z

2. BOKANA HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO WHAT OTHERS IN GOZ HAVE ALREADY TOLD US (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS). HE CONFIRMED THAT PLAN DOCUMENT ITSELF WOULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED TO DONORS UNTIL GOZ AND IMF HAD AGREED ON TERMS FOR NEW STANDBY. GOZ HAD PREPARED ITS OWN PROPOSALS FOR THOSE TERMS WHICH WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH IMF NEGOTIATING TEAM NOW DUE TO ARRIVE IN ZAIRE MAY 3. GOZ STILL HOPED TO WORK OUT THREE-YEAR STANDBY COMMENSURATE WITH

DURATION OF MOBUTU PLAN AND THUS ENABLING PLAN DOCUMENT TO INCLUDE THREE-YEAR PROJECTIONS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES. BOKANA ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS NOT YET CERTAIN IMF WOULD AGREE TO MULTI-YEAR STANDY.

3. BOKANA WAS SOMEWHAT VAGUE IN HIS COMMENTS CONCERNING GOZ'S PERCEPTION OF RELATIVE ROLES TO BE PLAYED BY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND IBRD. HE TOOK NOTE OF THE IDEA OF MAKING USE OF CONSULTATIVE GROUP, WHICH SEEMED TO BE SOMEWHAT NEW TO HIM. INTERESTINGLY, HE TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING DAY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT GOZ DID IN FACT INTEND TO HAVE IBRD (HE DID NOT SPECIFY CONSULTATIVE GROUP) SERVE AS COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR DONOR RESOURCES CONTRIBUTED TO PLAN.

4. COMMENT: BOKANA DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS "CHIEF TECHNICIAN" OF MOBUTU PLAN, AND HE PROBABLY KNOWS AS MUCH ABOUT IT AS ANYONE IN GOZ. BUT EVEN HE SEEMED UNCERTAIN ABOUT SOME OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS, UNDERSCORING PERSISTENT PROBLEM THAT NO SINGLE DEPARTMENT OR INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN DELEGATED TASK OF PROVIDING OVERALL ORCHESTRATION OF PLAN WITHIN GOZ. ONE ENCOURAGING NOTE, HOWEVER, IS THAT ALL OUR GOZ INTERLOCUTORS SEEM TO BE AWARE OF NECESSITY TO NAIL DOWN NEW STANDY AGREEMENT WITH IMF IN ORDER TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLAN.
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